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ABSTRACT

This document consists of tabulations of the responses from teachers and principals in 225 junior and senior high schools in Minnesota to questions related to speech and theater programs. Questions directed to principals asked for information about school size; grade levels served; support for speech and theater courses from students, faculty, and community; makeup of speech and theater courses; and information about speech and theater teachers. Questions to teachers asked for information about the basic speech communication course, other speech courses offered, and the teacher's background. (TJ)

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1978 SURVEY OF MINNESOTA SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH SPEECH-COMMUNICATION AND THEATER PROGRAMS

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Virginia T. Katz

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Speech Communication Association (Minneapolis, Mn., November 2-5, 1978)

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1978 SURVEY OF MINNESOTA SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH SPEECH-COMMUNICATION AND THEATER PROGRAMS

Of the 622 junior and senior high schools in Minnesota, 234 responded (38%). Nine indicated no curricular or extra curricular programs, leaving a total of 225 questionnaires to be tabulated.

PRINCIPALS' RESPONSES

Enrollment of Schools Responding:

# of Students	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
0 - 250	41	18%
251 - 500	53	23.5%
501 - 1000	76	33.7%
1001 - 1500	28	12%
1501 - 2000	13	5.7%
over 2000	2	.8%

Grade Levels in Building:

Patterns	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
7 thru 9	27	12%
7 thru 12	107	47.5%
9 thru 12	30	13%
10 thru 12	37	16%

Type of School:

	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools REsponding
City	35	15.5%
Suburban	34	15%
Rural	122	54%
Consolidated	39	17%
Other	2	.8%

Questions to Principals:

1.	Should speech-communication training be counted as part of the required skills in the "Back to Basics" movement?	Yes (90%) 203	No (5%) 12
2.	Is money specifically set aside in the budget for speech and theater?	Yes (63%) 143	No (29%) 66
3.	Are facilities adequate for the speech and theater programs?	Yes (59%) 129	No (37%) 85
4.	Should speech/theater teachers be certified to teach English?	Yes (68%) 153	No (21%) 49
5.	Are Minnesota colleges adequately preparing speech and theater teachers?	Yes (71%) 160	No (6%) 15

6. Are speech courses used primarily by certain types of students? (18%) (75%) Yes 41 No 168

7. Are theater courses used primarily by certain types of students? (28%) (53%) Yes 63 No 119

8. Faculty support of speech and theater programs?

Strong 33 (15%) Average 153 (68%) Weak 34 (15%)

9. Community support of speech and theater programs?

Strong 36 (16%) Average 157 (70%) Weak 29 (13%)

10. Student body support of speech and theater programs?

Strong 35 (16%) Average 151 (67%) Weak 35 (16%)

TEACHERS' RESPONSES

I. Basic Speech-Communication Course

A. Duration

	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
Semester	102	45%
Quarter (9 weeks)	45	20%
Year	21	9.3%
Trimester (12 weeks)	29	13%
Six Weeks	5	2%

B. Frequency

Each year	100	44%
Each Semester	63	28%
Each Quarter	15	7%
Each Trimester	8	4%

C. Grade Levels Taught to

7th	19	8%
8th	28	12%
9th	41	18%
10th thru 12th	117	52%

D. Required or Elective

Required	119	53%
Elective	90	40%

E. Average Number of Students Per Section

# of Students	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
5 - 10	12	5%
11 - 15	20	9%
16 - 20	63	28%
21 - 25	65	29%
26 - 30	42	18%
31 - 35	6	2.6%

(Most frequently cited was 19 students per section.)

(87% of the schools responding indicated that the classes met five times a week.)

F. Number of Sections Offered Per Semester (or year or quarter)

# of Sections Per Year	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
1	83	37%
2	38	17%
3	23	10%
4-5	28	12%
6-8	13	6%
10-13	12	5%

G. Length of Class Period

# of Minutes	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
40-43	4	2%
44-47	21	9%
48-51	103	46%
52-55	65	29%
56-60	6	2.6%
90	6	2.6%

H. Textbook Used

37 textbooks were listed as used in the basic course.

Book	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
38 Basic Speech Experiences (Carlisle, 1977)	13	6%
Patterns in Communication (Hedde, Brigance & Powell, 1973)	11	5%
The Art of Speaking (Elson & Peck, 1966)	10	4%
New American Speech (Hedde, Brigance & Powell, 1963)	8	3.5%
Creative Communication (Tanner, 1973)	7	3%
Speech in Action (Robinson & Lee, 1965)	7	3%
Speaking by Doing (Buys, 1974)	6	2.6%

Book	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
Modern Speech (Irwin & Rosenberger, 1966)	6	2.6%
Speaking of Communication/ Interp/Theater (Beyer, Lee, Wilkins, 1975)	5	2%
Speech in American Society (Allen, 1968)	5	2%
Communication: Interaction Through Speech (Allen, Parish, 1974	5	2%

(Other books had less than 5 - 2% schools using them)

I. Textbook Use

	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
Regularly	57	25%
Infrequently	74	33%
Never	46	20%

J. Description of Basic Course as Primarily:

1) Public Speaking	87	38.6%
2) Interpersonal Communication	30	13%
3) Activities (debate, oral interp, etc)	26	11.5%
4) Combination of the above	117	52%
5) Other (drama, mass media)	23	10%

K. Method of Grading Used

1) Written exams only	4	2%
2) Oral presentations only	55	24%
3) Combination of exams and presentations	149	66%
4) other (written work, outlines, participation)	24	11%

II. Other Speech Courses and Activities

A. Other Speech Courses Offered

Course	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
1) Advanced Speech	63	28%
2) Debate	40	18%
3) Drama	129	57%
4) Oral Interpretation	50	22%
5) Radio/TV	50	22%
6) Film	31	14%
7) Discussion	25	11%
8) Interpersonal Communication	24	11%

B. Speech Combined with another Course?

	# of Schools Responding	% of Schools Responding
Yes	57	25%
No	154	68%

C. If yes, what other course?

English	43	19%
Language Arts	5	2%
Drama	3	.8%

D. Extra-Curricular Activities Available

1) forensics	193	86%
2) debate	50	22%
3) discussion/student congress	37	16%
4) theater (drama)	199	88%

III. The Teacher

A. Institutions from which Respondents Earned Undergraduate Degrees

Mankato State	34
St. Cloud State	25
U. of Minn (Twin Cities)	19
U. of Minn (Duluth)	16
Moorhead State	14
Bemidji State	11
U of Minn (Morris)	9
Winona State	8
Hamline University	7
Gustavus Adolphus	7
Concordia	6
Macalaster	6

38 other institutions mentioned

B. Year of Graduation

1940-44	6
1945-49	4
1950-54	12
1955-59	18
1960-64	25
1965-69	56
1970-74	70
1975	8
1976	3
1977	5
1978	11

(Largest number was 11%, graduating in 1969)

C. Undergraduate Majors of Respondents

English	149
Speech	136
Theater/Drama	64
Social Studies	16
Language Arts	7
Music	5

D. Undergraduate Minors of Respondents

English	39
Speech	28
Theater/Drama	20
Social Studies	18
Education	17
Journalism	7
Music	7
P.E.	7

E. Graduate Institutions of Respondents

Mankato State	35
U. of Minn (Twin Cities)	33
St. Cloud State	22
U. of Minn (Duluth)	8
Moorhead State	8

(2% other institutions named)

F. Extent of Graduate Work of Respondents

In Progress	95
MA Complete	21
Beyond MA	20

G. Graduate Majors

Speech	34
English	28
Theater/Drama	16
Education	14

H. Year of MA

1950-55	1
1956-60	1
1961-65	6
1966-70	6
1971-75	12
1976-78	7

I. Professional Affiliations of Respondents

Speech Association of Minnesota	82
Speech Communication Association	23
Minnesota Debate Coaches Association	10
CSSA	9
NCTE	9

J. Years of Teaching and Directing Extra-Curricular Activities

Years	# of Respondents Teaching that # of years	# of Respondents Coaching that # of years
0 - 2	42	27
3 - 5	42	53
6 - 10	66	70
11 - 15	25	26
16 - 20	21	20
More than 20	10	12

K. Other Courses Taught

English	188
Theater/Drama	28
Mass Media	17
Reading	14
Social Studies	9
Journalism	4

* *

Figures from both principals and teachers indicate that between 30 to 40% of those people certified to teach speech-communication or drama are not teaching any speech-communication courses, and that between 60 to 70% of those certified in speech-communication or drama are teaching in other academic areas in addition to speech-communication and drama.

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